

I claim:

1. A protective sleeve for use with a horse boot that includes a support for bearing against a hoof of a horse and an enclosure for enclosing the hoof of the horse, comprising:

5 (a) a pad of resilient material having a bottom portion for covering a heel bulb in the hoof of the horse and a top portion for wrapping around a pastern of the horse; and

(b) means for fastening the pad on the pastern of the horse;

wherein said top portion of the pad is sufficiently wide to completely wrap around the pastern of the horse and said bottom portion of the pad is sufficiently wide to wrap around

10 only a portion of the hoof;

whereby a gap is prevented from forming between said enclosure of the boot and the pastern of the horse during use of the boot.

2. The protective sleeve of Claim 1, wherein said fastening means consists of a hook-and-
15 loop mechanism.

3. The protective sleeve of Claim 2, wherein the hook-and-loop mechanism includes an outer layer of loop material attached to the pad and a strap attached to the upper portion of the pad, said strap containing hook material.

20 4. The protective sleeve of Claim 3, further including an inner layer of fabric attached to the pad.

5. The protective sleeve of Claim 1, wherein said pad is about 6 inches high, said top portion of the pad is about 2 inches tall and about 10 inches wide, said bottom portion is about 4 inches tall and has a width tapering from about 10 inches at the top to about 5 inches at the bottom with a progressively decreasing curvature.

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6. The protective sleeve of Claim 3, wherein said pad is about 6 inches high, said top portion of the pad is about 2 inches tall and about 10 inches wide, said bottom portion is about 4 inches tall and has a width tapering from about 10 inches at the top to about 5 inches at the bottom with a progressively decreasing curvature.

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7. A protective-sleeve/horse-boot combination comprising:

(a) a horse boot including a support for bearing against a hoof of a horse and against the ground, and an enclosure for enclosing the hoof of the horse;

(b) a pad of resilient material having a bottom portion for covering a heel bulb in the hoof of the horse and a top portion for wrapping around a pastern of the horse; and

(c) means for fastening the pad on the pastern of the horse;

wherein said top portion of the pad is sufficiently wide to completely wrap around the pastern of the horse and said bottom portion of the pad is sufficiently wide to wrap around only a portion of the hoof;

whereby a gap is prevented from forming between said enclosure of the boot and the pastern of the horse during use of the boot.

8. The combination of Claim 7, wherein said fastening means consists of a hook-and-loop mechanism.

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9. The combination of Claim 8, wherein the hook-and-loop mechanism includes an outer layer of loop material attached to the pad and a strap attached to the upper portion of the pad, said strap containing hook material.

5 10. The combination of Claim 9, further including an inner layer of fabric attached to the pad.

11. The combination of Claim 10, wherein said pad is about 6 inches high, said top portion of the pad is about 2 inches tall and about 10 inches wide, said bottom portion is about 4 inches tall and has a width tapering from about 10 inches at the top to about 5 inches at the bottom with a
10 progressively decreasing curvature.

12. The combination of Claim 7, wherein said pad is about 6 inches high, said top portion of the pad is about 2 inches tall and about 10 inches wide, said bottom portion is about 4 inches tall and has a width tapering from about 10 inches at the top to about 5 inches at the bottom with a
15 progressively decreasing curvature.